

**Minutes - 2000 -W-6 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
Palmer, Alaska  
June 26-27, 2000**

Attending: M. Stannard, M. Jenderek, D. Parfitt, R. Hannan, R. Goose, J. Martin, J. Postman,  
M. Brick, R. Krueger, K. Jensen, R. Zemetra, D. Ianson, S. Wright, S. Mehlenbacher, T.  
Lumpkin, N. Robertson

Current W-6 officers

R. Goose - chairman, 1999-2000  
R. Zemetra - vice-chairman, 1999-2000  
K. Jensen - secretary, 1999-2000

**Monday June 26<sup>st</sup>**

**Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by R. Hannan**

**Introduction of Committee Members**

**Welcome to Palmer by Rob Wells**, Director, State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture

**Overview of Experiment Station** - Don Carling (Allen Mitchell absent) welcomed the committee to the Experiment Station Farm and expressed a desire for a closer working relationship between the Experiment Station and the USDA, National Arctic Plant Germplasm Resources Unit and the State of Alaska Arctic Plant Materials Center. The committee visited the Experiment Station on Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> am.

**Overview of the State of Alaska Palmer Plant Materials Center** - Stoney Wright (PMC Manager) - It was established in 1972 by the Alaska Legislature with a mission to assemble, evaluate and increase plant material. In addition, they are to maintain and provide seed of basic seed stocks, foundation, registered, and certified seed of wild flowers, grasses, grains, and potatoes. The farm is comprised of 405 acres. Its major emphasis is with native species that Alaskan growers can market without competing with Oregon and Washington growers. In marketing native species they are using pre-certified classes of seed, source identified, selected, and tested. Stoney expressed concern that the Alaskan seed growers find a unique market because it costs more to produce seed in Alaska. As part of their mission, the plant materials center is responsible for making seeding recommendations throughout Alaska. Some of the native species that do well are *Hordeum*, alpine poa, slender wheatgrass, small blue grass (coastal areas), downy wildrye. Recent collections of fescue and poa at the Plant Material Center have been identified as reproducing through vivipory and asexual pathways.

Stoney then spent some time talking about his second South Georgia Trip. Seed from his

first trip were lost by APHIS after entering the United States through Los Angeles, CA. The targeted species include tussock grass, which is high in forage yield with moderate quality, hairgrasses, and fescues.

### **Chairman Robin Groose - AM Business Meeting**

#### **Committee assignments:**

Resolutions committee - R. Zemetra (V.chair), R Krueger, S. Mehlenbacher  
Elections Committee – M. Brick, and D. Parfitt

Minutes of 1999 were approved as written - Moved D.Parffit and seconded by R. Zemetra

Next years meeting – Invitation was given by D. Parfitt for the W-6 TAC to meet in Davis, CA – M. Brick (motion to accept), S. Mehlenbacher - seconded. Discussion ensued as to the actual location. Kearney (Ag. center) or Parleir (USDA) were suggested. It was decided that a day field trip would include both sites, but the meeting will be held at Davis..

Time - Proposed the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June 25th-26th, 27<sup>th</sup> post meeting tour.

Meeting 2002 - Discussed Prosser as potential meeting site.

**W-6 Administrative Advisor's Report** - Ralph Cavalieri: The proposed budget of \$351,000 was approved this past march by the Western Region Experiment Station Directors. However, this 4% (salary increases) increase is based on the assumption that their will be an increase in Hatch funds. If this increase is not realized, W-6 will be funded at a flat rate of \$343,000. Rich Hannan expressed concerns that without this increase, they would have to start letting some of their time slip help go thereby reducing the number of accessions handled each year. Discussion included how to identify the various funding sources - CERS and ARS and how to increase funding.

The W-6 project terminates September 30, 2001. The ARS portion of the Western Plant Introduction Station will be renewed under the National Program 301, which is scheduled for 2002. The possibility of a one year extension was discussed to coincide with the renewal of the ARS portion. R. Cavalieri explained that an extension is only considered when there has been un-achieved objectives. R. Hannan felt that it was important to start working on the renewal immediately and not ask for an extension. There is a new format for the report and it is available on the web page.

A committee was formed to initiate the renewal of the non-ARS portion of the project. Chairman Robin Groose, Committee Members: R. Zemetra, D. Parfitt, and R. Hannan volunteered to take the lead on the critical review and objectives of the new project. Other committee members will be asked to help as needed. The final project needs to be completed by February 2001 for the March 2001 meetings of the Western Region Experiment Station Directors.

Rich Hannan agreeded to put the old project report on their web page.

**National Germplasm Resources Lab Report - Allan Stoner (Absent-No Report)**

**Germplasm Resources Program Report – Peter Bretting (Absent-No Report)**

**National Seed Storage Lab Report -Christina Walters (No Written Report Submitted) -** There has been a large personnel turn over at the National Seed Storage Lab. Henry Shands has been hired as the Director of NSSL and will start immediately. Christopher Richards has been hired as a population geneticist to study genetic shifts as a function of long term preservation. Gail Volk is studying factors associated with embryo development in cryopreservation. Jennifer Crane is studying seed physiology regarding long term preservation. A great deal of discussion, both for and against, was had on the potential inclusion of animal germplasm at NSSL facilities. One of the major discussion points included the potential increased costs without increased budgets and the ramifications this may have on the plant portion of NSSL and NPGS. Christina informed the committee that the animal emphasis would be restricted 15 to 20 agriculturally important species.

Dan Parfitt expressed concern over the concept of core collections and the possibility of other germplasm being lost or not regenerated. It was concluded that it was not the mission of the NSSL to generate collections nor maintain them. This responsibility is up to the individual curators within NPGS.

Discussion was held on the reorganization of the National Programs. The federal portion of W-6 is included in National Program 301.

**National Resources Conservation Service: - Mark Stannard -** The major emphasis within the Natural Conservation Reserve Program is on native plant species within the various regions. NRCS is contracting with the Forest Service and Highway Departments to grow locally adapted ecotypes for land restoration. They are conducting studies to evaluate the differences or similarities of various ecotypes. They also continue to supply W-6 with land for research and growouts.

Mark discussed a survey sent by the NRCS to 26 locations asking why they infrequently 1) ordered germplasm and 2) sent germplasm into NPGS. The most common response was that they (Forest Service) wanted only locally endemic material and that in doing research for the Forest Service, the plant materials belong to the Forest Service. Lack of computer skills was another response.

Other concerns regarding the submission of plant material to NPGS included low priority and implications on possible PVP.

There was a discussion on how to preserve native collections currently held by the NRCS resulting from 20+ years of plant collecting and evaluation. many of these collections are

under poor storage conditions and seed viability is declining rapidly. These collections should be included in the NPGS where they can be properly curated and distributed. All NRCS inventories will soon be on windows based data set.

Discussion on plant releases and proprietary rights regarding NRCS releases.

**Forest Service** - Durant McArthur (Absent-No Report)

**Bureau of Land Management** – Phil Dittberner: (Absent-No Report)

**National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research** – (Absent-No Report)

**National Small Grains Collection Report** – Harold Bockleman: (Absent - Report sent but not presented)

**Clonal Repository Reports:**

**National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Fruit and Nut Crops at Davis** – Report given by Dan Parfitt – See Submitted Report.

Lunch 12:00

**Clonal Repository Reports Cont:**

**National Clonal Germplasm Repository at Corvallis Oregon** - Report given by Joseph Postman - See Submitted Report.

**National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Tropical and Subtropical Fruit and Nut Crops** - Hilo, Hawaii – Report given by Francis Zee - See Submitted Report.

**National Clonal Germplasm Repository** - Riverside, California – Report given by Robert Krueger - Budgets at the repository are down to 10% discretionary funds and if inflationary adjustments are not met changes in program will result. The repository has applied for a quarantine licence that will increase the movement of introduced materials through the system. If additional funding were made available, support positions would be added. There are approximately 500 accessions, mainly citrus, distributed each year, of which many are sent internationally. The lab continues to do virus checking as well. Rich Hannan reported on a clonal distribution in Bolivia from Riverside. A full report is on their Web site.

**Western Regional PT Station Report and Budget Request** - Pullman, Washington - Report given by Rich Hannan - See Submitted Report for additional details. Currently at W-6, there are 30 full time employees and 25 part time employees. This past year, W-6 has supplemented its Federal and Hatch appropriations by \$95,000. In addition, a grant of \$17,000 was obtained to collect plants in Northwest Kazakhstan. The 2002 budget of

\$354,000 was submitted to the committee. The motion was made to accept the budget by Dan Parfitt and seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher. A discussion followed on the different sources of funding and possible avenues to increase baseline funding for W-6.

**National Arctic Plant Germplasm Resource Unit** - Palmer, Alaska – Report given by David Ianson, Curator - See submitted Report.

**National Arctic Plant Germplasm Resources Unit Research Report** – Report given by Nancy Robertson: Nancy is active in identifying pathological pests on native plants in Alaska. She has identified the Barley Yellow Streak Mosaic Virus, the first report in Alaska, with its brown wheat mite vector - (especially in the grasses). In addition, in wintergreen (*Pyrola asarifolia*) viral symptoms of leaf spot have been observed. She has found a new virus on *Lupinus nootkatensis* producing prominent veins. This virus has been cloned, but has not been able to transfer the virus mechanically.

**National Arid Land Plant Germplasm Resources Unit** - Parlier, California - Report given by Maria Jenderek - See Submitted Report - There was a discussion following the report by Dan Parfitt regarding the alternate grow out site of Hazel nut tree's at Parlier. He expressed his objection and questioned why they had not been planted at Davis. Shawn Mehlenbacher also questioned the validity of backing up the Hazel nut collections to Parlier without proper data. Maria reported that the trees were planted and doing well.

A discussion ensued regarding the role of W-6 TAC. Dan Parfitt, reading from the roles for TAC committees is to make recommendations regarding the germplasm preservation and research within the region to ARS.

### **State Reports**

**Alaska** – Stoney Wright - See Report

**Arizona** – Steve Smith (Absent-No Report)

**California** – Dan Parfitt - See Report

**Colorado** – Mark Brick - Get Hard Copy of Report

**Hawaii** – (Absent-No Report)

**Idaho** – Bob Zemetra – See Report

**Montana** – Jack Martin – See Report

**New Mexico** – Ian Ray – See Report

**Oregon** – Shawn Mehlenbacher – See Report

**Utah** – Kevin Jensen – See Report

**Washington** – Tom Lumpkin – See Report

**Wyoming** – Robin Groose - See Report

State reps expressed appreciation for the mailing labels this year in material sent from Pullman.

**Business Meeting** – Chairman Robin Groose

**Plant Exploration Proposals** - Kevin Jensen re-assigned

**Elections** – Secretary Elect – Jack Martin, Montana

**New Business Items** – Concern was expressed by members of the W-6 TAC regarding the potential increase in security issues when GMO's, are being stored at NSSL, and other W6 locations. This concern dealt mainly with animal germplasm but should be addressed for plants as well.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution 1 (Passed): The W-6 TAC would like to thank David Ianson, Nancy Robertson, and Stoney Wright for organizing and facilitating the W-6 TAC meeting in Wasilla/Palmer June 26 and 27, 2000. Moved to accept by Tom Lumpkin, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher.

Resolution 2 (Passed): The W-6 TAC would like to thank Robin Groose for his service as Chairman of the committee the past two years. Moved to accept by Rob Zemetra, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher.

Resolution 3 (Passed): Whereas the W-6 TAC is expected to advise the W-6 Plant Introduction program on aspects of germplasm storage, evaluation, and distribution.

and whereas the activities of the National Plant Germplasm System has a direct impact on the direction and activities of the W-6 Plant Introduction program.

Be it resolved that the W-6 TAC encourages the active participation of representatives of CSREES, BLM, Forest Service, NAURC, the National Program Staff, and National Germplasm Resources Laboratory to provide a national prospective on issues affecting W-6. Moved to accept by Dan Parfitt, seconded by Tom Lumpkin. Vote passed with 1 no and the rest yes.

Resolution 4 (Passed): The W-6 TAC committee recognizes the cooperation between the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and the National Arctic Plant Germplasm Resources Unit and encourages further cooperation between the two groups and the movement of the plant pathology research program to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks extension center in Palmer. Moved to accept by Rob Zemetra, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher. Vote passed with 1 no and the rest yes.